

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

### ***Kernan Awards Grant to Ligonier's Guardian Automotive Products***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$48,999 grant to Guardian Automotive Products located in Ligonier to train 38 workers.

Guardian Automotive Products is a business unit of Guardian Industries Corp., one of the world's largest producers of float and fabricated glass products. The company also manufactures and supplies the automotive industry with a variety of exterior products and is a significant player in the building materials distribution business. Headquartered in Auburn Hills, Mich., the privately held Guardian Industries group of companies has more than 19,000 employees worldwide. Guardian's Ligonier automotive fabrication plant began operation in 1991 and is a tier-one supplier to the automotive industry.

"The manufacturing industry requires companies to constantly upgrade the skills of its employees in order to remain competitive," said Kernan. "Guardian Automotive has recognized this need and has taken proactive measures to ensure the long-term success of the company and its employees. We look forward to partnering with them."

As competition increases and technology becomes more integral in day-to-day operations, the need for advanced education becomes more important. The grant, which Guardian is matching dollar-for-dollar, is the second DWD grant the company has received and will be used to extend its existing training program. With the help of Ivy Tech State College, curriculum was developed for maintenance mechanics and mold shop employees to earn either a career development certificate or a technical certificate. At the completion of this program, participants will have also earned 24 credit hours toward a degree at Ivy Tech.

"We have been privileged to participate in this grant for the past two years. We have been able to upgrade the skills and abilities of our maintenance mechanics and mold shop employees through this well-defined training program. Also, we have been able to attract talented individuals to the maintenance and mold shop area because of our educational opportunities. This program has enabled us to equip our employees with lifelong skills and make a positive impact on our bottom line at the same time," stated Michael R. Corner, Guardian Automotive Products training coordinator.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

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Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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